GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4736
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN FOR TB PROGRAMME
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NIVEDITA MANE;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have launched massive publicity campaign on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day to draw people to DOTS Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken a number of steps to control TB on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day to meet the global target of controlling the disease by the year 2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. On the occasion of World TB Day, to create mass awareness about DOTS strategy, messages from President, Prime Minister, Union Health Minister, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Secretary Health and Director General of Health Services along with information about TB & DOs & DON`Ts were published in Hindi and English in all editions of leading newspapers. Project districts also held special functions on this day to raise awareness.

(c) & (d) To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. More than 600 million population has already been covered under the strategy. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005. The Project Districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under the revised strategy are successfully treated which is double that in the earlier Programme. In order to further increase accessibility to the TB care facilities diagnostic facilities have been decentralized and strengthened and treatment is being provided near to the places of residence of the patients. Emphasis is being laid on involvement of NGOs, Private Practitioners and Medical Colleges. All diagnostic and treatment facilities including supply of anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients under the Programme, IEC activities are undertaken at all levels.